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Special Master George Finkle

BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

In the Matter of the Application regarding the Conversion and Acquisition of Control of Premera Blue Cross and its Affiliates.

No. G 02-45

EXPEDITED MOTION FOR CONFERENCE FOR SCHEDULING **DEPOSITIONS AND DISCOVERY** FOR DEPOSITIONS

Premera hereby makes an expedited motion to the Special Master to schedule a telephone conference with the OIC Staff, Premera, the Lead Intervenor Counsel and the Special Master. Premera requests that this conference be scheduled for the morning of Tuesday, November 11th or as soon thereafter as possible.¹

Premera proposes three subjects for the conference: (1) for the parties to provide the Special Master with whatever agreements they may have reached by the time of the conference in regard to the scheduling of depositions and the providing of discovery for the depositions; (2) for the parties to submit whatever suggestions they have for scheduling depositions and for discovery production; and (3) for the Special Master to

EXPEDITED MOTION FOR CONFERENCE FOR SCHEDULING DEPOSITIONS AND DISCOVERY FOR DEPOSITIONS - 1

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Tuesday, November 11th is a holiday for some. Assistant Attorney General Melanie deLeon, who is representing the OIC Staff at this time, has stated that, even though she has the day off, she is willing to participate in a telephone conference from her home on November 11th if one is scheduled for that day.

direct how the depositions shall be scheduled, what requested discovery documents shall be provided prior to each deposition, and when such documents should be provided.

Other parties may have additional proposed subjects, which they can propose in response to this motion.

Because of the short time available for discovery and because of the numerous depositions that are anticipated, Premera does not have any objection, if the Special Master does not object, to the other parties responding to this Motion by way of email, rather than a more formal pleading document. Nor does Premera object to the other parties responding with their objections or proposed schedules as late as 15 minutes before the hearing.

This motion is supported by the accompanying Declaration of Thomas E. Kelly, Jr. DATED this 10 day of November, 2003.

PRESTON GATES & ELLIS LLP

Thomas E. Kelly, Jr., wsba#05690 Robert B. Mitchell, wsba#10874 Attorneys for Applicant PREMERA and Premera Blue Cross

EXPEDITED MOTION FOR CONFERENCE FOR SCHEDULING DEPOSITIONS AND DISCOVERY FOR DEPOSITIONS - 2